

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 A-01 CPR-01

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O 171545Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8874

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 1512

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL: PROGRAM IDEAS FOR MRS. FORD

REF: CANNEY-HOUSTON TELECON JULY 16

1. GIVEN BELOW IS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLANNED PROGRAM OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR WIVES OF HIGH CSCE ATTENDEES. ALSO GIVEN ARE SOME EMBASSY IDEAS ABOUT OTHER THINGS MRS. FORD MIGHT WISH TO DO. THEY ARE OF COURSE ONLY SUGGESTIONS AND WE WILL DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO ARRANGE ANYTHING ELSE SHE MAY DESIRE.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY IS ARRANGING PROGRAM FOR LADIES AND WILL INVITE MRS. FORD TO PARTICIPATE IN FOLLOWING EVENTS:

A) JULY 30, WEDNESDAY, ABOUT 8 PM - DINNER AT GOVERNMENT BANQUET HALL SMOLNA ON ETELA ESPLANAD FOR LADIES ONLY AND HOSTED BY MRS. LIINAMAA, WIFE OF PRIME MINISTER. (PRESIDENT FORD INVITED TO STAG DINNER AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE SAME NIGHT HOSTED BY PRESIDENT KEKKONEN.)

B) JULY 31, THURSDAY - SIGHTSEEING IN HELSINKI
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

C) JULY 31, THURSDAY - LUNCH ON FORTRESS ISLAND SUOMENLINNA, HOSTED BY MRS. MATTILA, WIFE OF FOREIGN MINISTER. TRAVEL TO SUOMENLINNA BY FERRY BOAT WILL TAKE ABOUT 15 MINUTES FROM MARKET SQUARE.

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D) JULY 31, THURSDAY, AFTER LUNCH - EXHIBITION

ON SUOMENLINNA OF FINNISH HANDICRAFTS, FABRICS AND CLOTHING, FURS, ETC. RETURN TO MAINLAND ABOUT 3:30 PM. (FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONSUL GENERAL KLAUS SNELLMAN SAID THAT MRS. FORD COULD, OF COURSE, PARTICIPATE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE AS SHE CHOSE OF DAYS' EVENTS. FOR INSTANCE, THEY WOULD BE GLAD TO TAKE HER TO MAINLAND IMMEDIATELY AFTER LUNCH IF SHE DESIRED.)

3. WHILE NOT PART OF LADIES PROGRAM, MRS. FORD INVITED ATTEND RECEPTION AT KALASTAJATORPPA HOTEL EVENING JULY 31 AT WHICH FINNISH CABINET IS HOST. PRESIDENT AND LIMITED NUMBER OTHER U.S. DELEGATION MEMBERS WILL BE INVITED. TIME: 7:30 PM.

4. WE ASSUME MRS.FORD WILL NOT WISH TO PROGRAM ANYTHING AFTER ARRIVAL LATE AFTERNOON OF TUESDAY, JULY 29. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. AUSTAD HOPE THAT PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD WILL HAVE FAMILY DINNER WITH THEM AT RESIDENCE THAT NIGHT. WOULD PRESIDENT BE INTERESTED IN GOLF AND SAUNA WITH AMBASSADOR THAT EVENING OR NEXT MORNING?

5. PROGRAM IDEAS FOR JULY 30 AND AUGUST 1 AND TO SUBSTITUTE FOR ANY OF FOREIGN MINISTRY PROGRAM FOR JULY 31 WHICH MRS. FORD MAY WISH TO FOREGO ARE:

A) VISIT TO SEURASAARI OPEN AIR MUSEUM, ON AN ISLAND WITHIN HELSINKI CITY LIMITS. IT CONTAINS A COLLECTION OF EIGHT FULLY FURNISHED OLD FARMHOUSES FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF FINLAND, A CHURCH AND OTHER BUILDINGS. ACCESS TO THE ISLAND IS BY FOOTBRIDGE, SO SOME WALKING WOULD BE REQUIRED, PERHAPS A MILE OR A MILE AND A HALF IN ALL.

B) SIGHTSEEING BY CAR IN HELSINKI, OF SUCH ATTRACTIONS AS SENATE SQUARE (UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, LUTHEREN CATHEDRAL, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS), MARKET SQUARE AT SOUTH HARBOR (PICTURESQUE OUTDOOR FLOWER, FRUIT, VEGETABLE, BASKETWARE, FISH, ETC. MARKET), SIBELIUS MONUMENT, CHURCH IN THE ROCK (A STRIKING MODERN CHURCH BUILT INTO A ROCKY HILL NEAR MID-CITY).

C) TRIP BY AUTOMOBILE TO HVITTRASK, FORMER HOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND STUDIO OF FAMOUS ARCHITECTS ELIEL SAARINEN, HERMAN GESELLIUS AND ARMAR LINDGREN. IT IS NOW A MUSEUM. A PLEASANT 20 MILE DRIVE AND HAS GOOD RESTAURANT.

D) TRIP BY AUTOMOBILE TO AINOLA, HOME OF FINNISH COMPOSER JAN SIBELIUS. NOW A MUSEUM. TRIP WILL TAKE ABOUT AN HOUR ONE WAY. NEARBY ON LAKE IS PICTURESQUE LOG HOME STUDIO OF ARTIST HALONEN WHICH COULD ALSO BE VISITED.

E) VISIT TO TAPIOLA, WELL-KNOWN PLANNED "GARDEN CITY". IT IS LOCATED ABOUT 7 MILES FROM DOWNTOWN HELSINKI AND A GUIDED TOUR WOULD TAKE AN HOUR OR SO.

F) MANNERHEIM MUSEUM. THE LONG-TIME HOME OF FINNISH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND PRESIDENT MARSHAL MANNERHEIM. IN HELSINKI NEAR AMERICAN EMBASSY WITH MOMENTOS OF MANNERHEIM'S COLORFUL CAREER.

H) FINNISH DESIGN CENTER. THIS IS A PERMANENT DISPLAY OF FINNISH ART AND DESIGN OBJECTS AND FINNS RENOWNED FOR MODERN DESIGN.

I) SHOPPING. MRS. AUSTAD WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO WANDER AROUND THE SHOPS WITH MRS. FORD.

5. DO'S AND DON'TS. WELCOME KIT WILL HAVE SHEETS GIVING TIPS ON FINNISH SOCIAL CUSTOMS. IN BRIEF HERE ARE SOME WHICH MAY HAVE SPECIAL RELEVANCE.

A) GREETING: BOTH MEN AND WOMEN SHAKE HANDS WHEN MEETING ON THE STREET AND AT SOCIAL GATHERINGS. IF YOU ARE SHAKING HANDS WITH SOMEONE TO WHOM YOU HAVE NOT BEEN INTRODUCED, AS AT A LARGE PARTY, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO MENTION YOUR LAST NAME.

B) PUNCTUALITY: IN FINLAND YOU ARE EXPECTED TO BE PROMPT. EVERYONE SHOULD ARRIVE BETWEEN 7:00 AND 7:05 PM FOR A DINNER PARTY SCHEDULED FOR 7:00 PM.

C) AT A DINNER PARTY IT IS THE USUAL CUSTOM FOR THE HOST TO MAKE A SHORT WELCOMING SPEECH AS SOON AS THE FIRST COURSE HAS BEEN SERVED AND THE WINE OR SPIRITS GLASSES ARE FILLED. NO ONE TOUCHES HIS GLASS UNTIL AFTER THIS WELCOMING SPEECH. THE PRINCIPAL GUEST OF HONOR MAKES A SHORT REPLY THANKING THE HOST AFTER THE DESSERT COURSE AND DESSERT WINE HAVE BEEN SERVED.

D) WHEN VISITING A FINNISH HOME FOR DINNER, IT IS THE CUSTOM TO TAKE A FEW FLOWERS TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOSTESS, ALWAYS AN ODD NUMBER, USUALLY 3, 5 OR 7. THEY MAY ALSO BE SENT IN ADVANCE OR THE FOLLOWING DAY.

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ACTION OPR-02

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O 171545Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8875

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6. BIOGRAPHIES:

A) MRS. LOLA AUSTAD NEE BROWN. BORN DES MOINES, IOWA. LIVED AS CHILD IN FLINT, MICHIGAN. FATHER WAS MANAGER IN SEARS, ROEBUCK. SPENT EARLY YOUTH IN OGDEN, UTAH. ATTENDED WOOSTER COLLEGE, OHIO, AND WEBER COLLEGE, OGDEN, UTAH. MARRIED MARK E. AUSTAD 1941. HAS THREE DAUGHTERS, ALL MARRIED AND LIVING IN UTAH. ONE OF THEM, MRS. PENNY DAVIS, IS SPENDING THE SUMMER WITH THE AUSTADS.

B) MRS. PIRKKO LIINAMAA NEE LINDROOS. MARRIED KEIJO LIINAMAA, THE PRESENT PRIME MINISTER, IN 1955. THEY HAVE FOUR CHILDREN, RANGING IN AGE FROM 19 TO 10. MRS. LIINAMAA IS A CHEERFUL AND SELF-CONFIDENT EXTROVERT. SHE TALKS RAPIDLY AND IS NOT HESITANT ABOUT USING HER ENGLISH. SHE DEVOTES MOST OF HER ENERGY TO HER HOME AND FAMILY.

C) MRS. E.S. ANNIKI MATTILA, NEE VESTINEN. MARRIED OLAVI MATTILA IN 1956. THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN AGED 15-18. ONE OF THEM SPENT LAST YEAR IN AN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL. MRS. MATTILA'S CHILDHOOD HOME WAS IN THE KARELIAN ISTHMUS, NOW PART OF THE USSR. SHE HAS A DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND WAS EMPLOYED BY FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY WHEN SHE MET HER HUSBAND IN PEKING. SHE TAKES AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN HER HUSBAND'S WORK AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE MATTILA FAMILY FARM WHERE THEY RAISE BEEF CATTLE. SHE ENJOYS MEETING PEOPLE AND SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

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(PHOTO AND ARTICLE ON MRS. MATTILA POUCHED TO INR/OIL/B ON JULY 9.)

7. INFORMATION ON HELSINKI: ALTHOUGH HELSINKI WAS FOUNDED IN 1550, FEW SIGNS OF THE EARLY TRADING AND SEAFARING TOWN REMAIN. FIRES DESTROYED WOODEN

HELSINKI MANY TIMES BUT IT WAS ALWAYS REBUILT. THE WALLS OF THE SUOMENLINNA ISLAND FORTRESS DATE BACK TO THE 18TH CENTURY BUT MOST OF THE PRESENT CITY'S HISTORICALLY INTERESTING SIGHTS DATE ONLY FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY. HELSINKI BECAME FINLAND'S CAPITAL IN 1812 AFTER FINLAND BECAME A GRAND DUCHY UNDER THE RUSSIAN TSARS. THE POPULATION THEN WAS ONLY 4,000. IT WAS IN THE EARLY 1800'S THAT THE BUILDINGS AROUND SENATE SQUARE WERE BUILT --THE UNIVERSITY, CATHEDRAL, AND GOVERNMENT PALACE FOR INSTANCE. THE POPULATION OF HELSINKI HAD GROWN TO 79,000 BY 1900 AND TODAY IS JUST OVER 500,000. HELSINKI IS ESPECIALLY PROUD OF FINLANDIA HALL, ON THE SHORES OF TOOLOO BAY. IT IS THERE THAT STAGE THREE OF THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD. RESTORATION OF WORTHWHILE OLD BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ONES AND PRESERVING THE IMAGE OF THE CITY WHILE COPING WITH TRAFFIC AND OTHER PROBLEMS ARE CURRENT CONCERNS OF HELSINKI PLANNERS. HELSINKI RESIDENTS ARE NEVER FAR FROM THE SEA. INLETS AND ESTUARIES GIVE MANY MILES OF IN-CITY SHORELINE, OFTEN TREE-LINED AND UNSPOILED. IN THE SUMMER, MOTOR AND SAIL BOATS ABOUND IN THE OFFSHORE WATERS. HELSINKI IS A CITY BUILT ON A HUMAN SCALE.

8. DRESS: WE HAVE AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO PIN DOWN WHAT THE APPROPRIATE DRESS WILL BE FOR THE VARIOUS OCCASIONS AS PLANNING IS NOT COMPLETE. IN GENERAL, FOR DAYTIME SIGHTSEEING SOMETHING LIKE A LINEN SUIT WOULD BE FINE. PANTSUITS ARE NOT MUCH WORN HERE BY MATURE WOMEN. THE WEATHER HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY FINE SO FAR THIS SUMMER BUT HIGHEST DAY TEMPERATURES ARE ABOUT 75 DEGREES F. AT MOST, SO A LIGHT COAT AND A SHAWL OR THE LIKE WILL BE USEFUL. WE WILL SEND MORE COMPLETE RECOMMENDATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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AUSTAD

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